

From: Jinxmerc@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR,fin@mobilizationoffice.com@inetgw
Date: 1/22/02 12:06pm
Subject: Microsoft

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January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I have had trouble seeing Microsoft as a malicious monopoly. It appears to me that Microsoft is powerful because of the demand by everyday consumers for its products. American economists claim that if you build a better mousetrap, you will experience success under capitalism. This appears to be case, except when dealing with Microsoft.

Although the settlement calls for more concessions than Microsoft may have wanted, it realizes that settling the case sooner is better than later. The longer that this case proceeds, the greater the risk that our country may lose its competitive advantage within the world technology market. Also, let us not forget the devastating effect that a break-up of Microsoft would have on the IT industry as a whole. The loss of standardization and inoperability that would result would almost certainly stalemate the software market for years.

I feel that Microsoft's concessions have gone above and beyond what the states called for. Microsoft is more or less opening its patents and products to its competitors in an effort to stimulate demand for non-Microsoft products. Furthermore, there is a technical oversight committee that will ensure Microsoft's compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement. Most importantly, competitors will be allowed to sue Microsoft directly when they feel that they have been treated unfairly, thus avoiding another debacle at the federal level.

Thank you for providing this platform for my opinions, and for taking the time to hear my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Jinx Mercer

----- Headers -----

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From: "Microsoft's Freedom To Innovate Network" <fin@MobilizationOffice.com>

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